NORTH CAROLINA
Farm Report
COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

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No. 130 RALEIGH, N. C. MARCH 27, 1953

MARCH GENERAL FARM REPORT AND 1953 INTENTIONS TO PLANT

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS 1953

March intentions reports from North Carolina farmers indicate a 1 percent net increase in the total acreages of the 10 crops (including hay but excluding cotton) covered by this report.

Decreased acreages are expected only for crops under acreage control programs. Tar Heel tobacco growers report intentions to cut their acreage about 7 percent from 1952, while peanut producers report a prospective reduction of 5 percent in their crop. However, more than offsetting these cuts are planned increases in the acreages planted to corn, oats, sweetpotatoes, Irish potatoes, soybeans and sorghums. No changes are planned in the acreages of barley and hay crops.

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LARGER CORN ACREAGE IN PROSPECT

North Carolina farmers report intentions to plant 2,262,000 acres of corn for all purposes in 1953. Such an acreage would be 1 percent greater than the 2,240,000 acres planted last year and slightly larger than the 10-year (1942-51) average of 2,255,000 acres. If the expressed intentions are fulfilled, the average this year will be the second largest area planted to corn since 1944.

Should farmers plant their intentions, of 2,262,000 acres and the realized yield per planted acre equal the 10-year (1942-51) average of 27.1 bushels, production this year would be about 61 million bushels compared with 56,176,000 bushels from the drought damaged crop of 1952. If yields approximate the 5-year (1947-51) average (a reasonable expectation with a normal season) of 31.0 bushels per planted acre, the State's crop would amount to about 70 million bushels.

SOYBEAN ACREAGE UP

The 1953 prospective acreage for soybeans grown alone for all purposes in North Carolina is 441,000 acres or 2 percent more than the 432,000 acres planted in 1952. If such an acreage is realized, it will be the third largest of record, exceeded only in 1943 and 1951. Some of the increase in soybean acreage is expected to result from the reductions in peanut and tobacco allotments. Other factors expected to cause an increase are the favorable prices last year and the effective as well as inexpensive insect control measures now in use.

For the U. S., the 1953 acreage of soybeans planted alone for all purposes will set a record if growers carry out their planting intentions as expressed on March 1. Indications point to an acreage of 15.9 million, 19 percent above the 10-year average of 13.3 million.

(Continued on Page 3)

SMALLER TOBACCO ACREAGE FOR 1953

March 1 intentions reports from North Carolina flue-cured tobacco growers indicate a 1953 crop of 684,000 acres. Such a crop would be 54,000 acres - about 7 percent - below the 738,000 acres harvested last year, but nearly 14,000 acres above the 10 year (1942-51) average of 670,300 acres.

Type 11 (Old and Middle Belt) growers indicate an intended acreage for 1953 of 267,000 acres, 8 percent or 23,000 acres less than the 290,000 acres harvested in 1952. The 10-year average acreage in this belt is 262,000 acres.

Type 12 (Eastern Bright Belt) growers report intentions to plant 331,000 acres this year, 7 percent or 25,000 acres less than the 356,000 acres harvested in 1952. The 10-year average type 12 crop is 328,200 acres.

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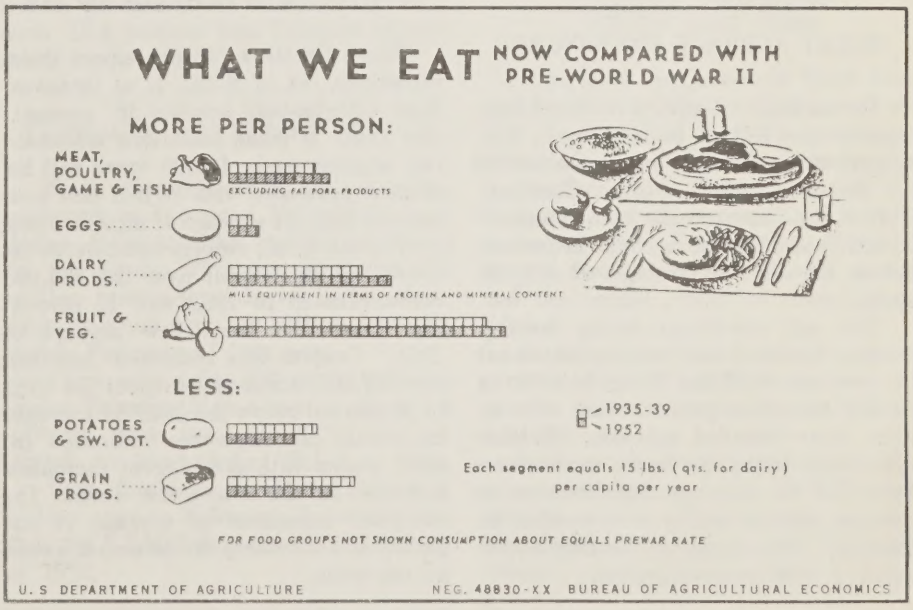

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS *(Cont'd)*

The acreages for 1953 are interpretations of reports from growers and are based upon past relationships between such reports and acreages actually planted. The purpose of this report is to assist growers generally in making such further changes in their acreage plans as may appear desirable. The acreages actually planted in 1953 may turn out larger or smaller than indicated, by reason of weather conditions, price changes labor supply, financial conditions, the agricultural program, and the effect of this report itself upon farmers' actions.

Increased acreages, as reflected by growers-intentions reports, are corn for all purposes 1 percent, oats 11 percent, sweetpotatoes 16 percent, Irish potatoes 2 percent, soybeans 2 percent and sorghums for all purposes 38 percent.

An abundance of rain during winter months has assured satisfactory moisture conditions for spring planting. Spring activities have been hampered by frequent rains in some areas of the State, but no critical situations have developed.

TOBACCO ACREAGE *(Cont'd)*

The intended acreage for Type 13 (Border Belt) is estimated at 86,000 acres, 7 percent below the 92,000 acres harvested in 1952. This compares with the 10-year average of 80,100 acres.

Burley growers report intentions to plant 11,300 acres, compared with 12,200 acres last year and the 10-year average of 10,330 acres.

WHEAT ACREAGE UNCHANGED

On the basis of reports received from farmers last fall, it is estimated that 427,000 acres of wheat have been seeded for the 1953 crop in North Carolina. This is the same acreage as was seeded in 1952 and 1951 but is about 10 percent below the 1941-50 average of 473,000 acres.

Dry soil conditions during the fall months hindered the seeding of wheat in most areas of the State; however it is felt that most growers were able to seed their intended acreage. Weather conditions during the winter months were favorable for the crop and little or no damage was caused by cold weather or freezing. Prospects for the crop as of March 1 were generally good.

BARLEY ACREAGE UNCHANGED

Reports from barley growers in the State indicate that 53,000 acres of barley have been seeded for the current year. This is the same acreage as was seeded for the 1952 crop.

Heavy smut damage to last year's crop reduced supplies of seed and dampened the enthusiasm of farmers to continue expanding their acreage of barley. Thus the 1953 acreage does not reflect a continuation in the upward trend that has occurred in the past few years.

FEBRUARY MILK PRODUCTION SETS NEW RECORD

Milk production in North Carolina during February was estimated at 117 million pounds, a record high for the month. Production during February dropped seasonally from the 124 million pounds produced during January and compares with 115 million pounds produced during February 1952 and the 1942-51 February average of 101 million pounds. There were 378 thousand milk cows on farms in the State during February 1953, comparing with 361 thousand during the same month in 1952.

For the Nation, milk production continued at a record-breaking mid-winter rate as the seasonal upswing got well underway in February. Production on farms in the U. S. during the month is estimated at 8.5 billion pounds, a new high for February, and an increase of 5 percent from the 8.2 billion pounds last year.

SWEETPOTATO ACREAGE UP 16%

North Carolina farmers report their intentions, as of March 1, to increase their sweetpotato acreage 16 percent this year. If these intentions materialize, approximately 45,000 acres will be planted compared with 39,000 last year and the 1942-51 average of 60,000 acres.

For the U. S., reports indicate an increase of 10 percent over the 334,000 acres planted in 1952 and 15 percent more than the record-low acreage of 1951. Despite this indicated increase, the 367,000 acres in prospect for 1953 is 38 percent below the 1942-51 average. Increased plantings are indicated in most states with the biggest increases indicated for the commercial areas. The sharpest expansion of acreage is expected in Louisiana, the principal sweetpotato state.

OAT ACREAGE INCREASES

The total acreage of oats seeded in North Carolina for 1953 is estimated at 561,000 acres. This is a 11 percent increase above the 1952 crop of 505,000 acres.

The sharp acreage increase was to some extent due to the shortage of feed grains which now exists in many areas over the State and to an indicated increase in the acreage of oats to be cut for hay.

Dry soil conditions during the fall months hampered oat seeding and caused more oats to be sown in the spring than usual.

IRISH POTATO ACREAGE UP SLIGHTLY

March 1 reports from Tar Heel farmers indicate intentions to plant a total of 46,000 acres of Irish Potatoes this year. This acreage is a 2 percent increase over the 45,000 acres planted in 1952, but is 38 percent less than the 1942-51 average.

The commercial early crop is expected to total 18,500 acres -- 9 percent more than the 17,000 acres harvested last year.

U. S. growers' intention-to-plant reports indicate prospective potato plantings at 1,509,000 acres in 1953. This acreage is 6 percent larger than the 1,417,000 acres planted in 1952, but 35 percent below the 1942-51 average. Increased acreages over last year are in prospect in all parts of the country with the biggest expansion indicated for the early states and for the late states of the west. Acreage now in prospect for the early states is 18 percent larger than the acreage planted last year.

1953 HAY ACREAGE UNCHANGED FROM LAST YEAR

Farmers plan to harvest approximately the same acreage for hay in 1953 as in 1952 but somewhat less than was harvested on the average for 1942-51. The prospective 1953 acreage of peanuts in North Carolina is below 1952 and this would result in less peanut hay acreage. However such loss should be offset by increased acreages of oats, soybeans and cowpeas harvested as hay. The past winter and current spring weather has been quite favorable from both a temperature and soil moisture standpoint. Alfalfa, new spring seedings and old meadows should make excellent early cuttings.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTING FOR 1953

CROPS	NORTH CAROLINA					Unit of Yield	UNITED STATES				
	Average 1942-1951		Acreage Planted				Average 1942-1951		Acreage Planted		
	Acreage Planted	Yield Per Planted Acre	1952	Indicated 1953	1953 % of 1952		Acreage Planted	Yield Per Planted Acre	1952	Indicated 1953	1953 % of 1952
	(000)	Units	(000)	(000)	%		(000)	Units	(000)	(000)	%
Corn, all	2,255	27.1	2,240	2,262	101	Bu.	88,024	34.5	82,658	81,764	98.9
Oats 1/	462	21.9	505	561	111	Bu.	43,953	30.1	42,975	43,777	101.9
Barley 1/	49	21.0	53	53	100	Bu.	13,487	22.1	9,385	9,357	99.7
All Hay 2/	1,266	1.01	1,227	1,227	100	Ton	74,666	1.37	74,664	74,859	100.3
Sweetpotatoes	60	107	39	45	116	Bu.	591	92.4	334	367	109.7
Potatoes 1/	74	132	45	46	102	Bu.	2,318	187.6	1,417	1,509	106.5
Tobacco 2/											
Type 11	262	1,082	290	267	92	Lbs.	361	1,095	400	368	92
Type 12	328.2	1,203	356	331	93	Lbs.	328	1,203	356	331	93
Type 13	80.1	1,180	92	86	93	Lbs.	197	1,180	224	209	93
All Flue-Cured	670.3	1,153	738	684	93	Lbs.	997	1,143	1,114	1,033	93
Type 31 (Burley)	10.3	1,487	12.2	11.3	93	Lbs.	441	1,191	463	430	93
All Tobacco	680.6	1,158	750.2	695.3	93	Lbs.	1,678	1,158	1,776	1,659	93.5
Soybeans 3/	400	-	432	441	102	-	13,300	-	15,643	15,862	101.4
Peanuts 3/	294	-	210	200	95	-	3,664	-	1,969	1,958	99.4
Sorghums, All Purpose	33	-	58	80	138	-	14,883	-	12,455	14,866	117.8

1/ Includes acreage planted in preceding Fall.
2/ Acreage harvested.
3/ Grown alone for all purposes—partly duplicated in hay acreage.

SOYBEAN ACREAGE *(Cont'd)*

Growers do not make a March 1 report on the acreage intended for harvest as beans and no forecasts of such acreage or production are made at this time. However, if the intentions are carried out for soybeans planted alone for all purposes and about the same proportion of the total acreage of soybeans is harvested for beans as in the last three years, about 14.2 million acres would be harvested for beans. Applying the 1947-51 average yield, by states, to the computed acreage for beans would result in a production of about 285 million bushels. The production as computed would be less than in 1952 and 1950, but with those exceptions the highest of record.

ALL SORGHUM ACREAGE SHARPLY HIGHER IN 1953

N. C. farmers intentions on March 1, to plant sorghums reflect a sharp increase in this crop over 1952 and other recent years. The indicated 80,000 acres for 1953 is 38 percent more than the 58,000 acres harvested last year and almost two and one half times the average 1942-51 acreage. The major portion of the sorghum acreage is devoted to sorghum for grain. Of the 58,000 acres of all sorghums in 1952, there was 3,000 acres for syrup; 12,000 acres for forage and 43,000 acres for grain. The major portion of the indicated increase for 1953 is anticipated for (milo) grain sorghums.

BROILER OUTPUT DECLINES

Hatcherymen and dealers serving the commercial broiler areas of North Carolina placed 4,030,000 broiler chicks with growers during February. This represents a decline of 1.2 percent from the 4,077,000 placed in the area during February of last year.

Commercial hatcheries serving the areas report 7,151,000 eggs set in February - - up 4.7 percent from a year earlier while hatchings show an increase of 3.1 percent.

February placements this year lagged well behind those of 1952 in the eleven principal broiler areas of the Nation. During last month, a total of 52,044,000 chicks were placed with broiler growers in the eleven areas - - down 13.4 percent from February placements a year earlier.

FEBRUARY EGG PRODUCTION UP

North Carolina farm laying flocks produced an estimated 122 million eggs during February, the highest on record for the month. This compares with 122 million (revised) produced during January 1953 and with 118 million produced during February of last year.

There were 9,044,000 layers on hand during February of this year or about 2.8 percent more than the 8,799,000 (revised) on hand during February 1952.

Farm flocks in the Nation laid 5.3 billion eggs in February, 6 percent less than the 5.7 billion produced in February of 1952.

SMALLER PEANUT ACREAGE FOR 1953

Prospective 1953 plantings of peanuts alone for all purposes is indicated at 200,000 acres, 10,000 acres or 5 percent under the acreage for all purposes in 1952. Such a crop would be 94,000 acres below the 10-year (1942-51) average and the smallest acreage planted in the State since 1924. These intentions include peanuts for picking and threshing, for hogging off and for other purposes. The first estimate of the 1953 acreage of peanuts for picking and threshing will be made in August.

FEBRUARY HATCHINGS BELOW LAST YEAR

Commercial hatcheries in North Carolina report their February chick output was 2.3 percent below February hatchings a year ago. The 6,348,000 chicks hatched in the State during February compare with 6,499,000 hatched a year earlier. However, production during February was 25 percent greater than the 5-year (1949-51) average and the second largest of record for the month.

Hatchings during the first two months of 1953 totalled 11,438,000 chicks - - 3.7 percent greater than the January-February total last year.

Revised estimates place North Carolina commercial hatchery output for 1952 at 59,899,000 chicks. This represents an increase of 1.7 percent over the 58,890,000 chicks hatched in 1951.

FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of the
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
S. R. Newell, Assistant Chief
and published by the
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Statistics
L.Y. Ballentine, Commissioner of Agriculture

Released semi-monthly through the
Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh
Frank Parker, Statistician in Charge

PRIMARILY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO
CROP REPORTERS AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

ORIGINAL INFORMATION DIRECT FROM
FARMERS AND OTHER LOCAL SOURCES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Raleigh, N. C.

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FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

The steadily changing but never extreme sequence of weather events that characterized January continued through February. The six rainy periods were separated by as many sunny spells, with neither type of weather predominating through more than four consecutive days. Low pressure storm centers passed through the coastal waters on the 3rd, 8th, and 25th, the latter two being rather weak. A similar storm crossing the State along an inland path on the 15th caused unusually high winds on the southeast coast, and moderately windy weather throughout the State. Generally windy conditions also prevailed on the 21st, resulting from a storm whose center passed far to the north over the Great Lakes.

February averaged warm for the time of the year, but without any uncommonly high temperatures at any time. The highest recorded at most places was under seventy degrees, and occurred on the 1st or the 21st; a few places in the southeast reported high readings in the middle seventies. The coldest morning in most areas was that of the 18th; even then very few points outside the higher mountain elevations dropped below twenty degrees. Freezing weather penetrated to the outer banks on only one morning, but occurred in most inland areas on ten or twelve different days. The average temperature over North Carolina for the month of February was about two degrees higher than long-term averages for all Februarys on record.

Rainfall came frequently and, for the most part, in slow moderate doses. Three separate periods brought as much as an inch to most of North Carolina, but no period brought a general average of as much as two inches. The frequency of the rains, rather than the quantity, kept soils soaked over most of the State, the amount of water being taken up by the soil being higher in proportion to the total fall than is the case with heavy showers. Most sections had from one to two inches more rain than normal, based on averages over all records for February. The principal exception was the north central Piedmont, where the amount was about normal. Heavy snow fell in the mountains on the 14th and 15th, and lighter falls on other occasions, but at no time did measurable snow reach the eastern or central sections of the State.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES
WOOL PRODUCTION - 1951-1952

Year	Sheep Shorn No. 1/	Wt. Per Fleece	Production Shorn Wool	Price Per Lb. 2/	Cash Receipts
	Thous.	Lbs.	Thous. Lbs.	Cents	Thous. Dol.
		North Carolina			
1951	36	5.3	191	106	202
1952	40	5.5	220	53	117
		United States			
1951	27,357	8.24	225,545	97.0	218,832
1952	28,172	8.25	232,373	53.3	123,873

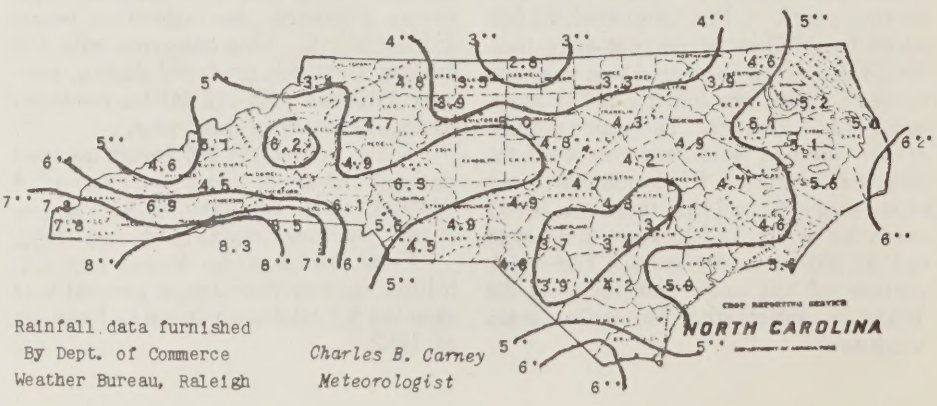
1/ Includes sheep shorn in commercial feeding yards.
2/ Average for marketing season Apr.-March 1952 preliminary, includes allowance for wool under loan.

PRODUCTION OF WOOL INCREASES

Wool production in North Carolina totalled 220,000 pounds during 1952, an increase of 28,000 pounds or 15 percent over the 1951 production. This increase was due to an 11 percent increase in the number of sheep shorn as well as a 4 percent increase in weight per fleece over 1951.

Cash receipts from the sale of wool totalled $117,000 compared to $202,000 in 1951. Wool prices in 1952 averaged $.53 per pound, exactly half as much as the average price of $1.06 per pound received by producers in 1951.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING FEBRUARY, 1953



Rainfall data furnished
By Dept. of Commerce
Weather Bureau, Raleigh

Charles B. Carney
Meteorologist